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LB 1399

with regard to education but, generally, we feel that we want a quality education for all children. When you have that as your goal, we then come to recognize that the one thing that is most important in seeing that that happens is having a quality teacher in the classroom. I know that there are some people who have said \$7,500 a year seems like a great amount. California pays \$10,000 a year. States all across the nation are beginning to move towards the national board certification. I think the important thing for you to realize, this is not licensure. This is not just getting a master's degree, and it is...demands a portfolio of work that a teacher must do and perform that really goes to how they teach and how they effectively teach in the classroom. It is one of the few things that I remember nationally that really get at the issue of improving the abilities of the teachers in the classroom. I would hope, I have a num...a great deal of material here that talks about what national board certification really is. I can get any additional information you may have, but as I've said, most states when I travel to conferences, across the nation, people are recognizing, and they are recognizing it because teachers have come to them and said I have never found anything that has made a bigger difference to me in how I can perform in the classroom and how I have personally improved as a teacher, and improved my skills in the classroom, than the national board certification. It is a tremendous amount of work. It does cost in order to begin the process, but if we look at something that eventually I think make the differences, that we talked about doing things differently rather than always doing things the same old way, this is a primary example of recognizing that this is a different method. It is one that's recognized by all education groups and supported in many states, and I hope that as you try to understand and decide if this should be a part of LB 1399, you will begin to realize the significance and importance of really doing twofold, giving teachers the opportunity to do a better job and become a better quality teacher, and at the same time compensating them for those efforts, and so I rise in support of the Thompson amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. On the Thompson amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1399, Senator Tyson, followed by Senators Thompson, Wehrbein and Vrtiska.